

## MR. DIXON TALKS OF THE CLANSMAN

Says His Play is Absolutely Without Objectionable Scenes or Lines.

### CRITICISES HIS CRITICS

Offers to Withdraw Play if Richmond Public Fought to Censure.

"The Clansman" company reached Richmond on yesterday and rehearsed at the Academy last night.

Mr. Dixon, the author of the much talked of sensational play that will be seen to-night, was not present at the rehearsal, but remained at his hotel. If there are any scenes that leaned toward the repulsive or if there are any lines that border on repuliveness, The Times-Dispatch man failed to see or hear them. The play, while startling and bold, was at once vigorous and convincing, and the plot, treated in a masterly manner, is one that is familiar to every Southern man and woman.

The company is strong and the movement of the acts is smooth and easy. The part of "Flore" a small South Carolina girl, is exceptionally well played, by the little Violet Mersereau, who, chosen out of one hundred children to fill the character, is not only a charming little actress, but is as pretty as she is clever.

### Caused a Sensation.

The first production of the play in Norfolk last week created a veritable sensation, and gave promise of a remarkable success.

In the criticism printed in an afternoon paper on Saturday, a mistake was made. The little child in the play does not become the victim of a negro, but escapes him. The play, however, is a production, and five elaborate settings are used in the four acts, the third of which is in two scenes.

Three horses are carried and are used in the pursuit and capture of the negro, "Gus."

The success that was so marked at the fall performance was repeated again in Norfolk on Saturday night, when the people were turned away from the theatre, and a new record was made by the playhouse.

Mr. Dixon was seen last night, and when asked if he had any reply to make to the criticisms of his play, he said that he appeared in the play, and that the entire plot was founded on absolute fact, and that not one word was spoken that was not a matter of very distant history. In conclusion he said:

### Wrong Impression.

"The opinions expressed in an afternoon paper of Richmond on Saturday by the solemn young man who reported the production of the Clansman in Norfolk are intensely amusing to me. Among the six thousand people, the most of whom were present Friday and Saturday, there were not a dozen people who agreed with him.

"The impression of his report is utterly false. The formula by which the play was made is simply a mixture in equal proportions of fact and fancy, and the thought. Three magnificent audiences declared that it was a success.

"The assertion that there is a single line hideous or repulsive to a thoughtful man or woman is childish rubbish. The idea that there is a single scene which would not be welcome to the most refined mother and her daughter is utterly false.

"I offer my learned critic this simple test: After the performance in Richmond Monday night, if he can find one percent of the audience who agree with his opinions, I will immediately take steps to withdraw the play from the theatre, regardless of any financial loss to me. This ought to satisfy my friend, for the financial results seem to distress him."

### Is True History.

I wish to deny with emphasis the assertion that an actual assault is more than suggested on the stage. This unspoken terror of the South, a daily living reality to every Southern heart, remains unspoken in my play. I have held the mirror up to our history, and told the truth about the past and our present. I have spoken the message of my people, and it is a message the world has not yet heard and ought to hear. This is my greatest and my proudest achievement of my life. I have studied the art of the drama with consuming passion for the past three years that I might do this thing. Not for money, nor for vain glory, but for the people, and I must speak it or die.

I am not a pessimist. I am an optimist, who loves laughter and sunlight. I simply refuse to be a fool when confronted by a great racial problem. If this problem is already so serious and dangerous that a Southern white man dare not discuss it aloud North and South, it is high time somebody begins to speak out. Will he vanish if we keep still? No question is ever solved until it is solved aright. The South in 1867 stood for some things that are eternal in their verity. She stands for them to-day, and the great North is being driven ever southward for guidance as the black man crowds each day closer into their lives.

Are we a race of cowards that we are afraid of our history or our principles? For my part, I am proud of both. I shall beseech them to my children a priceless heritage.

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## CONTRACT LABOR LAW VIOLATORS

Eleven New York Manufacturers Are to Be Arrested There To-day.

### IMPORTED ENGLISH WORKMEN

They Are Accused of Doing So to Make a Lockout a Success.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—After eight months of careful preparation the United States District Attorney of this district will to-morrow, according to reliable authority, cause the arrest of eleven heads of manufacturing and contracting concerns of this city, on writs charging them with having conspired, through the medium of an employers' association, to violate the contract labor law by the importation of foreign workmen. The penalty of conviction is a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than two years.

It is understood that the Department of Commerce and Labor is directing the prosecution, and has, through its own agents, assisted by operators of the secret service, prepared the case against the accused.

### Have the Evidence.

This has involved many months of investigation, and also the keeping since January last of four men, English liars, and it is upon the evidence of these four men, backed by an array of corroborative depositions, that the government chiefly relies.

The evidence in the case goes back to the lock out by the Tile, Grate and Mantel Association, an employers' organization, the men of the Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers and Helpers of New York and vicinity on August 6th of last year.

To make the lockout a success, it is charged, the Employers' Association sent one of its number to England and caused advertisements to appear in papers in England and Germany offering the makers \$5 per day for eight hours' labor in the United States.

City workmen, it is alleged, were imported to the United States at the instance of the eleven accused men, and were instructed to swear falsely when questioned at Ellis Island by the immigration officials as to their reasons for coming to America, and especially to swear that they had not been employed in this country. It is also said that the men were furnished with the address of one of the accused and ordered to report to him.

### The English Discharged.

Two weeks after the men were imported, the lockout being a success, it is alleged, the accused caused the English workmen to be discharged, on the ground that they were not familiar with American tools or the method of working in the country, and were therefore, useless. Some of these men got home as best they could, but four of them carried their grievances to agents of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and rendered information on which an investigation was based. Since then they have been under detention at the immigrant station at Ellis Island.

## WILL DEMAND TRIBUTE.

Mr. Louthan Writes of Recent Sermon By Dr. Hawthorne.

The hundreds of friends and admirers of Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of this city, will be glad to read the appended well-deserved tribute recently published in the

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But excuse this reference to my pleasure in listening to such uplifting discourses. I may be allowed to say that among the best speakers to whom I have ever listened were some who in the olden time, preached at the "Bible House" bar. Among them could be named such intellectual giants as James M. Fish, the late Dr. Daniel C. Johnson, and Dr. (afternoon), Uriel Wright, Philip Williams and others.

In the pulpit of other days, Clarke could be named, and in the language of Captain Cutler, "I am proud of him." This problem is already so serious and dangerous that a Southern white man dare not discuss it aloud North and South, it is high time somebody begins to speak out. Will he vanish if we keep still? No question is ever solved until it is solved aright. The South in 1867 stood for some things that are eternal in their verity. She stands for them to-day, and the great North is being driven ever southward for guidance as the black man crowds each day closer into their lives.

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Every one of the visitors will have opportunity to participate in all the events arranged. To do this several of the most interesting features of the programme will be repeated at least once after the original performances, and some of them will be given two repetitions. The government departments will be open until 4:30 o'clock every afternoon for the benefit of the visitors.

### Treasury Department.

By special invitation from Secretary Shaw the visiting bankers will be afforded unusual opportunities to view the workings of the Treasury Department. There will be excursions to Mount Vernon and Alexandria, Va., each day of the convention, both by trolley and by boat.

Wednesday afternoon, October 11th, the visitors will be received by President Roosevelt.

Thursday and Friday afternoons they will be the guests of the officers of the Thirtieth Cavalry and Third and Fourth Batteries of Field Artillery at special exhibition drills at Fort Myer, embracing difficult features of horsemanship and military manoeuvres. Tuesday evening, October 10th, the delegates will be the guests of honor at a banquet by the local bankers. Prominent men from all sections of the country will make addresses.

### Social Pleasures.

Secretary and Mrs. Shaw will give a reception October 11th, and the trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art also will give a reception to them the same evening. October 12th the visitors will attend two theatre parties, and the following evening a formal reception will be tendered them by the Washington members.

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